

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. In the recent OeVP Convention, opposition between Chancellor Figl and State Secretary Graf lay at the root of the so-called War Generation issue. The following are the respective factions attached to Figl and Graf:

a. Figl adherents: Raab, Gruber, Kraus, Kolb, Eckert, Widmann, Hartmann, and Mrs. Paunovic. It will be noted that most of these individuals are members of the Wirtschaftsbund of the OeVP, and Figl himself has the Bauernbund behind him. This means that Figl has almost 1/5ths of the numerical strength and at least 90% of the economic strength of the OeVP behind him. Since differences with Graf began to crop up, Figl has succeeded in having most of the election campaign funds, which come largely from the Wirtschaftsbund, diverted to his own office by Raab, leaving Graf, who is officially charged with organization and election matters, with almost nothing. The following is an example of how Figl's control of the party funds works out: At a recent OeVP Praesidium meeting, members of the Party Youth Movement requested 45,000 schillings to send delegates to an International Youth Congress of the NEI (Nouvelle Equipe Internationale). Graf stated that there were no funds available for this purpose. Figl, however, asked the delegates to come to his office and said he would give them the money. Gruber is in the Figl camp because he considers Graf's right-wing tendencies dangerous to his foreign policy. Though Gruber has personal aspirations for Figl's job, he is more afraid of Graf than of Figl.

b. Graf adherents: Hurdes, Weinberger, Krauland, Polcar, Altenburger, Bock, and Fritz Zink. Hurdes has tended to vacillate between the two groups and at the time of the Party Congress he gave the appearance of supporting Figl. For that reason, source previously mentioned Hurdes as being on Figl's side in the "War Generation" controversy. Hurdes, like Graf, has no personal following and would, therefore, like to build up the War Generation much in the same way that Graf would like to. Weinberger is definitely on the Graf side in spite of his sincere anti-Nazi feelings. His animosity toward Figl in itself is sufficient to put him in the Graf camp. In addition, his health is very bad, and Polcar is offering him keen competition for the party leadership in Vienna.

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2. The break between Figl and Graf, which has come to a head over the question of OeVP relations with the ex-Nazis, actually originated as a result of Figl's discussions with Ernst Fischer in June 1947. Graf and Weinberger at that time were deeply hurt, not because Figl was negotiating with a Communist leader, but because they had been left out. Instead of placating them, Figl became stubborn and relied almost completely on Weber (now deceased) and Raab. The Graf group claims that OeVP policy is made only by Figl, Raab, and Gruber, which they claim is highly undemocratic. They also claimed to have information that Figl has negotiated secretly with the Socialist Party concerning dissolution of the Ministry for Property Control and Economic Planning.
3. At a meeting of the OeVP Praesidium on 30 May, the War Generation dispute was not mentioned, although there was evident tension. There was a clear split between the Wirtschaftsbund and the Workers and Employees League. On 31 May Graf announced that his main assistants in the election campaign will be: Lukas, Morlacutti, and Eugen Zink (brother of Fritz). All three have Nazi records. In an attempt to break down resistance of the Party Youth Movement to the creation of a War Generation movement, two Youth Movement leaders, Ryker, head of the Vienna organization, and Kittl, have been nominated as candidates for election to the posts of Vienna City Councillors by the Vienna OeVP leadership. They were nominated at the insistence of Fritz Zink. Miller, of the Christian Socialist Party of Bavaria, who attended the People's Party Congress, indicated later that he had noted Graf's attempt to railroad through a War Generation movement. He also claimed that if the efforts had not been crushed, the OeVP election of officers might have turned into a strongly contested issue.
4. Polcar had a definite appointment to meet with Dr. Winkler of the Herbert Kraus group (League of Independents) in Salzburg on 26 May for the purpose of soliciting Kraus' support for the Graf group. Polcar intended to take along Leinkauf, a member of the Concentration Camp Union, who is in the Graf camp, in order to make it appear that the War Generation also represents the resistance movement. On 25 May, Dr. Winkler called off the meeting without explanation. Leinkauf is in the Graf camp primarily because his entire income is derived from an OeVP job which he cannot afford to lose by crossing Graf. Such financial dependence on the OeVP plays an important role in the status of a large number of medium level party functionaries.
5. Meetings have been taking place between the three Bunds which make up the People's Party to determine a formula by which the seats in the National Assembly and City Councils will be divided among the Bunds. By 4 June no agreement had been achieved, although seven meetings were held by the committee appointed to make the decision, consisting of Polcar and Weinberger of the Workers and Employees Bund, Eichorn of the Economic Bund, Nationalrat Waller of the Peasant Bund, and Mrs. Kittl of the Women's Movement of the Party. The Economic Bund demands one-half of all seats captured by the People's Party in Vienna, both in the National Assembly and the City Council. Unity will have to be achieved before 15 June when the Vienna district and precinct meetings for nominating candidates will begin.
6. The leadership of the OeVP has received information, presumably from the police in Graz, to the effect that Professor Dobretsberger has been negotiating with the Communists regarding the formation of an Austrian Nationalist Party which would be supported by the Soviets.* The People's Party leadership also has information that Czernak, former Minister for the Austrian Christian Social Party, has formed a committee with the possible intention of letting it develop into an anti-Nazi party. The Czernak group is allegedly in contact with Figl. It includes a number of persons who are making efforts to clean up the Catholic organization, the CV.

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7. As a protest against the courting of the Nazis by the Party leadership, the Union (Verband) of Political Persecutees is submitting a memorandum to the OeVP Party Praesidium:
 - a. Protesting the attention given by the Graf group to the so-called War Generation at the recent Party Congress, and asking how the ten delegates of the War Generation came to be accepted at the convention;
 - b. Stating that the Union of Political Persecutees is prepared to dissolve itself as an organization in order "to facilitate the Party's efforts to woo the Nazis", and at the same time promising to publish the reasons for the dissolution of the organization;
 - c. Accusing Dr. Voek, Chief Secretary for Social Policy, of avoiding a clear-cut stand on the Nazi issue.
8. Nationalrat Hans is currently negotiating with Dr. Ludwig Jedlicka, a former Hitler Youth leader who was convicted by the People's Court for his activities. Jedlicka has organized three former Hitler Youth groups in Vienna XIV, and has done a thriving business by interceding for Nazis and securing nullification of their records. Nationalrat Hans has stated that he feels Jedlicka controls a large number of votes and that it is much better to "legalize and supervise" his activities on behalf of former Nazis within the framework of the OeVP than to let him operate as a free-lance "de-Nazifier." Nationalrat Hans offered Jedlicka a place in the governing body of the Youth movement of the People's Party.
9. On 17 June 1949, there was scheduled a meeting of the Bundespartei Leitung of the People's Party (which includes the Party Praesidium, the Party Obmaenner of the various Laender, the Party Secretaries of the Laender, and the heads of the various Zweckverbander within the OeVP). Topics for discussion included:
 - a. Personal differences among the leaders of the OeVP.
 - b. The recent meeting between Raab and Nazi representatives in Grundens.
 - c. The problem of establishing an organization for the War Generation.
10. On 13 June 1949, Graf, Gorbach, Polcar, and Hans, representing the OeVP leaders, met with Pingitzer, Dr. Gredler, Dr. Herzele (OeVP official from Klagenfurt), and a representative of Count Strachwitz from Styria representing the War Generation. The latter group presented the following proposals for discussion:
 - a. Setting up a separate War Generation organization, since they were not satisfied with the establishment of a War Generation Section or Referat, as decided on 9 May 1949, but insisted on War Generation representation in all party sections and organizations (Koerperschaften).
 - b. Establishment of a War Generation paper.
 - c. Granting of OeVP funds for financing the War Generation (paper and salaries of OeVP functionaries).
11. These demands were discussed at length and the following compromises were reached:
 - a. The War Generation would be built into the youth movement of the People's Party as a semi-autonomous organization under the name of Junge Front. The Junge Front would be represented by one paid secretary in the youth movement leadership (Vorstand) on national, provincial, etc., levels. The Junge Front will have its own membership and issue membership cards in the name of "The Junge Front of the Youth Movement."

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- b. The organ of the youth movement, Ruf der Jugend, will be transformed into a "militant paper" named Junge Front. The editor of Ruf der Jugend, Franz Olleler, will remain as editor, but since he is an opponent of the War Generation, he will probably not last long. A meeting of the governing body of the Osterreichischer Verlag will be called to declare Ruf der Jugend insolvent and launch the new paper, presumably before 1 July 1949.
- c. Secretary Graf gave his assurance that if the Junge Front is approved by the Party Leadership, he can provide the funds necessary to pay the salaries of the new secretaries and to carry the paper.
12. This compromise solution was presented to the Party leadership conference on 17 June 1949. The leaders of the youth movement of the Party feel that the Junge Front will destroy the youth movement and have written a personal letter to Figl asking him to clarify his stand.
13. Results of the meeting on 17 June 1949 are not yet known.

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Comment: According to a report from another agency, Kraus had been approached by a representative of the KPÖ suggesting a meeting between Kraus and Friedl Farnberg. At this meeting plans were to be worked out for acceptance of certain program points by Kraus, in return for which the Russians would permit him to carry out election propaganda in Lower Austria.

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